

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 29, 2013

Agenda Item: Future Fisheries Improvement Projects - Summer 2013 funding cycle

Division: Fisheries **Action Needed:** Final approval of funding for projects

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

The Future Fisheries Improvement Program provides funds for projects that restore fishery habitats in streams, rivers and lakes for the benefit of wild fisheries. Applications are reviewed twice each year by a 14-member citizen panel appointed by the Governor. Citizen Panel recommendations are forwarded to the FWP Commission every six months for consideration and approval. For the Summer 2013 funding cycle, the Citizen Panel recommends funding 4 of 6 submitted proposals at a Program cost of \$155,550. Matching funds or in-kind contributions from outside sources total \$255,099.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public is informed about Program funding opportunities via news releases, a public meeting and information posted on FWP's website. The Future Fisheries Citizen Panel conducted a public meeting to review applications, discuss proposed projects with applicants in attendance, and receive public comment. No public comment was received at the meeting, except from applicants in attendance. All applications were posted on FWP's website, which allows viewers to submit comments on-line. One comment was received supporting the proposed Redwater River project. An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for each project recommended for funding. One person provided a comment on the EA for the proposed Ten Mile Creek fish passage project. This person commented that they are not opposed to the project but as a water user this person wanted assurance that the project would not adversely affect his water rights.

Alternatives and Analysis

Alternative A: The commission could approve the funding recommendations submitted by the Panel and prioritized by the ranking committee. This would provide funds to assist in the completion of projects that will improve habitat for wild fish populations. Alternative B: The commission could disapprove or modify the recommendations of the Citizen Panel. This could include removing the Ten Mile Creek fish passage project from the list of projects approved for funding. Under this alternative applicants would need to seek funding from another source or discontinue the projects that would have otherwise benefited wild fish populations.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends that the commission approve the funding recommendations as submitted by the Future Fisheries Citizen Panel (Alternative A). Completion of these projects would benefit wild fish populations. FWP would retain the ability to cancel the Ten Mile Creek fish passage project if water rights issues remain unresolved.

Proposed Motion

"I move to approve the Future Fisheries Citizen Panel funding recommendations for the Summer 2013 funding cycle of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program."